

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the inconsistent use of underlining in the amendment presented on December 21, 2004. As is well known, the use of underlining to indicate to a typesetter that the underlined text should be italicized when printed was common practice in the era before desktop publishing. The skilled artisan would understand that the underlining of microorganism names in the amendment present on December 21, 2004, as well as in all claims previously presented in this application, was intended to indicate italicization of the microorganism names.

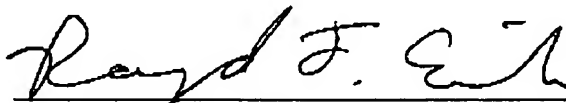
In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Applicants present the above amendment, which includes all amendments presented on December 21, 2004 and not entered, as well as the further amendment of all microorganism names to appear in italics. In the amended claims, all text struck through is to be deleted, and all non-struck-through underlined text is to be entered, which should render the amendments compliant with USPTO practice.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent agent at (713) 934-4065 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) Dated March 17, 2005